

2000 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Recycling

Ball State University (Muncie)

Category: Non-traditional Waste Projects Contact: Tom Smith, (765) 285-5088
Mike Planton, (765) 285-5092

At Ball State, the recycling of construction/demolition (C&D) debris began on a small scale in the early 90's. In 1997, Ball State performed several waste audits to determine the feasibility of incorporating C&D into their large renovation project contracts. Thereafter, the Facilities Planning & Management department managed three large renovation contracts, which included contractual requirements to recycle concrete block, various metals, wood, copper & aluminum wire, gypsum board, and cardboard. Items salvaged for a second life included doors, frames, hardware, marker boards, windows, plumbing & light fixtures, and furniture. The contractor hauled all reclaimed items to the University farm for processing and redistribution. Over 4,150 tons of construction debris was recycled with a landfill cost avoidance of \$153,445.

Battle Ground Middle School Ecology Club (Battle Ground)

Category: Recycling Projects Contact: Sandy Berlin, (765) 567-2122
Meredith Richmond, (765) 567-2122

The Battle Ground Middle School (243 student population) recycles all grades of paper, cardboard, #1 and #2 plastic, glass, tin cans, aluminum cans, and plastic bags. Recycling at BGMS started in 1991. The Ecology Club formed in 1992 and has developed and managed all aspects of the recycling collection program. Certified Recyclers take the recyclables from the classrooms to the toters in the back of the school, where the students sort the material and maintain a storage area. The recyclables are periodically hauled to a local recycler. The Ecology Club covers the monthly cost of the cardboard container. Waste Management provides free toters for the program. Over five tons of recyclables are collected each school year. Club members are now looking for ways to encourage school officials to promote recycled content paper in the copying machines and work with the cafeteria to reduce single use containers.

Tina Bowman, Crawford County Solid Waste Management District (Marengo)

Category: Source Reduction & Reuse Projects Contact: Tina Bowman, (812) 365-9419

Tina Bowman, Director of the Crawford County Solid Waste District, has been the integral catalyst to the programs offered by the district. With little revenue funds to operate on, Tina and her support group generate volunteer time and donations to achieve major recycling efforts. She has established recycling sites in a county that wrestles with open dumping and burning issues. The recycling sites collect the standard fare of recyclables

plus batteries, mercury, motor oil, oil filters, tires, and anti-freeze. Tina is actively involved in six schools throughout the rural county, involving the children with hands on projects. Most recently, she pioneered a book swap for her rural district that has had overwhelming response from the public, reusing over 11,000 of the 19,000 books received in 1999. A member of the community nominated Tina for her extraordinary efforts toward improving the local environment with little financial resources available.

Cinergy PSI Columbus District Office

Category: Recycling Projects

Contact: Michael Smith, (812) 375-2035

The recycling program at PSI's Columbus district office is best described as "all inclusive." A group of employees known as the "Green Team" meet regularly to assess the needs and direction of the facilities environmental activities. The employees operate an antifreeze recycling machine for its vehicle maintenance shop; composts yard waste from the facility's grounds; disassemble ceramic insulators to recover brass and copper; bales cardboard to yield the highest return at market; and collects mixed office paper, newspaper, magazines and aluminum cans. The company is currently looking at several source reduction and buy recycled initiatives. All revenue generated from the sale of recyclables is donated to charity. Annually, this single PSI facility recycles 60 tons of material, including cardboard, magazines, mixed paper, newspaper, brass, steel, aluminum cans, and aluminum scrap. Cinergy is currently proceeding with an operational plan to reduce paper generation through electronic work flow of drawings, work orders, material requisitions, and communications. A wood waste recycling program is growing, and the company is exploring energy saving methods as well.

Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (Crane)

Category: 50% Achievement Award

Contact: Jo Kay Belcher, (812) 854-4098

Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center has a corporate policy to prevent and reduce pollution at its source, whenever feasible. As a result, Crane has quite a comprehensive recycling program for both the facilities and households on base. Crane has led an effort to reuse surplus material, use less toxic batteries for training purposes, and incorporate the use of recycled content materials into their purchasing practices. Other initiatives include; recycling sonobouys, rerouting the drainage pipes on locomotives to a five-gallon holding tank for recycling, and demilitarization of items by disassembly to remove hazardous materials and recycle components. In 1999, Crane recycled 19,468 tons of material, while landfilling only 4,764 tons. A tremendous feat for a 62,463 acre facility that employs over 4,000 staff.

City of Elkhart – Public Works and Utilities Department

Category: Education

Contact: Eric Horvath, (219) 293-2572

Elkhart is an industrial based city that has transformed environmental liabilities into environmental assets over the past decade, mostly through efforts of the Public Works and Utilities Department (PWU) of the City of Elkhart. Public Works has developed environmental education programs through the Elkhart Environmental Center (a transformed municipal garbage dump) and the Elkhart EnviroCorps. Through its comprehensive approach, many citizens have become better environmental stewards. During the past decade, over 33,700 students have been educated through the Elkhart Environmental Center. In 1999, over 52,600 pounds of office paper was recycled, 8,000 recycling bins distributed, and hundreds involved in America Recycles Day activities. The local curbside recycling program boasts a 70% participation rate, with the educational support of the City and EnviroCorps.

Lake, Porter, LaPorte, St. Joseph, and Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts (Merrillville, Valparaiso, LaPorte, South Bend, Ashley)

Category: Education

Contact: Jeffrey A. Langbehn, (219) 769-3820

The Lake, Porter, LaPorte, St. Joseph, and Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts have implemented and continue to operate the Northern Indiana Regional Media Campaign. The campaign themes are household hazardous wastes (a video commercial entitled, "Death Row") and curbside recycling (video entitled "Think") to promote the various recycling services provided in the northern tier of the state. Television and radio commercials, billboards and print media were developed in concert with the two themes. While the participating solid waste management districts enjoy a strong working relationship, this is the first time these districts joined together to develop an integrated public educational campaign, with an impact on 1,100,000 residents in the targeted media markets.

Martin County Solid Waste Management District (Loogootee)

Category: Recycling Projects

Contact: Laura Albertson, (812) 295-4142

Martin County Solid Waste Management District runs a full service material recovery facility, collecting everything from the basic recyclables to shrink wrap, upholstery fabric, and appliances. In order to maintain this successful rural program, Martin Co. Recycling uses regional and cooperative approaches, including revenue sharing and has developed private/public relationships with the major trash haulers serving their area. In 1999, this rural county of 10,000 recycled over 2350 tons through the facility, and 107 tons of material through the reuse center. In addition, there is a unique history in the building of the facility, through the recovery of used lumber and other building supplies, from the Crane Naval Base.

Mail Boxes Etc. (Floyds Knobs)

Category: Source Reduction & Reuse Projects

Contact: Joyce M. Vallance, (812) 923-7447

Mail Boxes Etc. #3785, a copy and office supply retail business began with a commitment to recycling and source reduction from its inception in March 1999. This commitment has been demonstrated through the retail company practices in store operations to include; stocking copiers with 30% post consumer recycled content paper, replacing wrapping paper and ribbon with reusable cloth wrap bags, and locating recycling bins near all copiers. Retail sales inventory includes refillable pens instead of disposal pens, refillable tape dispensers, and recycled content office and home supplies. Over 63 retail items were replaced with recycled content, and 28 disposable items were replaced with refillable/reusable ones. Marketing materials and business cards have recycled content paper, and all packing material is reclaimed and reused. The in-house recycling program includes the recycling of cardboard, paper, aluminum, steel, plastic, newspaper, and styrofoam. The store collects household batteries and printer cartridges for the local solid waste management district, and utilizes non-toxic cleansers in the maintenance of the facility.

Monroe County Solid Waste Management District (Bloomington)**Green Business Network**

Category: Education Project

Contact: Eric Hauck, (812) 349-2866

Monroe County Solid Waste Management District's Green Business Network kicked into full gear in 1999 an effort to better implement streamlined recycling efforts in the local business community. The Green Business Network's innovative approach has been to educate business executives on the economic benefits of waste reduction, work with the business employees on how to implement the program and provide starter bins and signs, in order to lay the foundation for a sustainable business recycling program. Recycling participation within Monroe County businesses has blossomed and new businesses continue to contact the Network to become involved.

Nishikawa Standard Company (Fort Wayne)

Category: 50% Achievement Award

Contact: CoLette Schlegel, (219) 493-7938 x 263

Nishikawa Standard Company, New Haven Division extrudes and finishes rubber profile used in the automotive sealing systems industry. Through aggressive source reduction and recycling efforts, Nishikawa was able to recycle an average of 57% of the facility waste though the facility increased the amount of rubber processed by 24%. Nishikawa accomplished these impressive numbers by identifying seventeen wastestreams, and began initiating a recycling or reuse program for ten of these waste streams, and reducing concentrations of the remaining seven waste streams. In 1999, over 944,000 pounds (472 tons) were recycled from the facility. In addition, the company reduced hazardous wastes by 61% within the past two calendar years. Going beyond these superior efforts, the

company is pursuing the reuse or recycling of de-vulcanized dense rubber. Nishikawa Standard is a joint venture between Cooper Standard Automotive and the Nishikawa Rubber Company.

Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (Merrillville)

Category: Recycling Projects

Contact: Dean A. McDevitt, (219) 647-5268

Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) completed a flue gas desulfurization conversion at the R. M. Schahfer Generating Station which uses a limestone scrubbing process to remove sulfur dioxide from flue gas, resulting in a byproduct of high-purity synthetic gypsum. The gypsum is then transported via conveyor to an adjacent facility, where it is used to manufacture wallboard. This process conversion eliminated the need to landfill the previous unusable byproduct. As a result, over 352,000 tons of gypsum is recycled annually. In addition, the company has recycled 261 tons of cardboard, 36,000 pallets, 11,500 wood spools, 2,500 tons of mixed paper, and 5,263 tons of scrap steel. The company also recycles aluminum wire, meters, adapters, copper wire, distribution and power transformers. NIPSCO's year 2000 goal is to remove 99.9% of all PCB's from their transmission and distribution system.

Quality Thermoplastic Resins, Inc. (Evansville)

Category: Recycling Projects

Contact: Rod Jackson, (812) 429-0901 x 30

Quality Thermoplastic Resins, Inc. (QTR) custom-compounds recycled plastics, producing pellets used in molding a wide variety of consumer products. QTR provides a high-end product made to customer specifications, including custom colors and new compounded products using recycled plastics. A variety of plastics have been processed, including various grades of polycarbonate, polyethylen, acrylonitrile butadienestyrene, polyphenylene oxide, polypropylene alloys, polystyrene, polyester, and nylon. These products have similar properties to and can be substituted for virgin material. In 1999, over 7.5 million pounds of recycled plastics were compounded by QTR for new end use. QTR also has an extensive office and production facility recycling program and has been certified by QS-9000, a worldwide standard for quality procedures.

City of Rensselaer

Category: 50% Achievement Award

Contact: Mike Murphy, (219) 866-7833

The City of Rensselaer implemented a volume-based rate for weekly garbage pick up, bi-weekly curbside collection of recyclables and yard waste collection in 1995. In 1997, the city implemented a business community recycling program with grant dollars from the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District to purchase a one-ton truck. Items collected and recycled by the city include newspaper, office and mixed paper, cardboard, magazines, glass containers, plastic containers, aluminum and tin cans, white goods, tires, and household yard waste. The city touts an 80% residential participation rate and has diverted 60% of its waste stream since the base year of 1991. Over 2,243 tons of

recyclables and yard wastes were diverted from disposal in 1999. The city is a previous Governor's Award winner for achieving a 50% diversion rate.

Robus Leather Corporation (Madison)

Category: Recycling Projects

Contact: Anthony J. Gish, (812) 273-4183

Robus Leather Corporation is a manufacturer of leatherboard, the only leather company in the U.S. that recycles leather scrap into a salable product. The company's primary function is to recycle chrome tanned leather shavings, grain shavings, vegetable tanned leather cuttings from the shoe and saddle industries, and leatherboard scrap supplied by our customers. The product, using recyclables, is produced on paper making machines and is a hybrid of the leather making and paper manufacturing process. In an average year, Robus recycles 8,000 tons of split shavings, 2,000 tons of grain shavings, 1,000 tons of vegetable scrap, 155 tons of leather dust, and 450 tons of in house scrap. The results are a suitable leatherboard material that can be used as insoles, shoe counters, heel lifts, belts, purses, wallets, portfolios, and a number of other marketable items. In addition to recycling leather scrap, the company is committed to recycling its hydraulic oils and it's wastewater.

Whitewater Environmental Council (West Harrison)

Category: Recycling Projects

Contact: Terrence Duffy, (812) 689-3525

The Whitewater Environmental Council (WEC) is a citizens group in Franklin County that has been working on recycling and other solid waste issues for over ten years. WEC has a diverse membership and its success is greatly due to the broad spectrum of partnerships the members have developed with government and community organizations. WEC organized the first community recycling day in 1990, which eventually led to a permanent recycling center. Since then, WEC members tackle new and larger collection projects each year. In 1999, it's Earth Day celebration resulted in the recycling of 850 tires, 160 lead-acid batteries, 180 refrigerant appliances, 1400 pounds of clothing, and 6,000 pounds of magazines. WEC also had a very successful book swap and a paint swap. In the fall of 1999, WEC partnered with the United Way of Franklin County for the "Coats for Kids" collection campaign. WEC's membership is broad based, and their activities have gained county wide support for a number of years.

City of Whiting – Recycling Department

Category: Recycling Projects

Contact: Mark Harbin, (219) 659-2725

The City of Whiting operates a curbside recycling program, touting an 80% resident participation rate and weekly pick-up. Participation is tracked using a Geographical Information System (GIS), enabling them to target non-participating residents with additional education efforts. The city also implemented a handicap sticker program to allow residents with disabilities to leave recyclables on the porch. The city collects glass, aluminum and steel cans, plastic containers, newspaper, cardboard, computer paper, magazines, junk mail, chipboard, and telephone books, as well as household yard waste.

In 1999, the city recycled 476 tons of household recyclables, 120 tons of scrap metal and white goods, and 137 tons of yard waste.

If you would like additional information about this program please contact, Bobbi Steiff, (800) 988-7901 or (317) 233-5554.